

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Janakiraman Ramachandran  
 Serial No. : 09/284,516  
 Filed : April 14, 1999  
 For : NEW USE

Examiner: J. Kim APR 12 2000

Group Art Unit 1600



I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to : The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 31, 2000.

Richard J. Sperner  
 Agent Name

*Richard J. Sperner*  
 Signature

35,372

PTO Reg. No.

March 31, 2000

Date of Signature

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2000.

The present application was filed under 35 U.S.C. §371. 35 U.S.C. §371(b) states that the National Stage of such an application shall commence with the expiration of the applicable time limit under PCT Article 22(1) or (2) or 39(1)(a), unless expressly requested otherwise in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §371(f). In the transmittal letter for the instant application, not only was early processing not requested but Applicant expressly requested that the National Stage processing of the

APR 12 2000  
TECH CENTER 1600/291

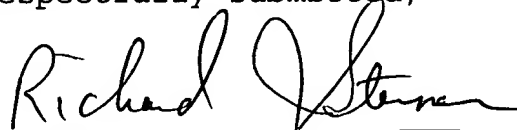
application not commence until the expiration of the applicable time limit under the appropriate above-cited PCT articles. In the present case, the applicable time limit has not yet expired.

In view of the foregoing, the processing by the Application Branch and the subsequent issuance of the Office Action were premature. Accordingly, the application should be returned to the U.S. Designated/Elected Office and not be processed until the expiration of the applicable time limit under PCT Article 22 or 39(1).

No fee should be due in connection with this communication. However, should it be determined that a fee is required for any reason, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge it to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: March 31, 2000

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Sterner  
Reg. No. 35,372

White & Case LLP  
1155 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
(212) 819-8783